

*“Conservation districts have long advocated that natural resources conservation must come from voluntary, incentive-based approaches. For species conservation, it is clear that success lies in flexible tools and incentives that promote diverse habitat yet still allow economic use of private lands. Thank you, FWS, for collecting information on these tools in a landowner-friendly fashion.”*

**Bill Wilson**  
**President**  
**National Association of**  
**Conservation Districts**

*“Private individuals, families, and farmers own the bulk of the South’s 215 million acres of forestland. Cooperative initiatives such as Safe Harbor are critical because they encourage stewardship and reduce landowner uncertainty while enhancing habitat for threatened and endangered species.”*

**H. Glenn Hughes, PhD**  
**Extension Professor**  
**Mississippi State University**  
**Extension Service**

*“The State fish and wildlife agencies clearly appreciate the merits and value of working with private landowners to achieve fish and wildlife conservation and recognize the significant contribution of these USFWS incentive programs to that effort.”*

**John Baughman**  
**Executive Vice President**  
**International Association of**  
**Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

*“With more than two-thirds of listed species living on private lands, there has to be cooperation between government agencies and landowners if the Endangered Species Act is going to be successful. Farmers and ranchers of the nation understand the need to preserve species, and they are willing to voluntarily participate in habitat conservation programs that are incentive-based but still provide protection for their private property rights.”*

**Bob Stallman**  
**President**  
**American Farm Bureau Federation**

*“Working with private landowners on conservation projects since 1995 has affirmed our belief that landowners are essential and willing partners in wildlife conservation—if they have the resources needed. Incentive tools such as Safe Harbor Agreements and conservation banks work for both landowners and rare wildlife. Financial, technical, and regulatory incentives all encourage farmers, ranchers, family foresters, and other landowners to be good stewards of our nation’s natural heritage.”*

**Michael Bean, Co-director**  
**Center for Conservation Incentives**  
**Environmental Defense**

*“The greatest successes occur when landowners promote these tools to their peers.”*

**Laurence Wisemen**  
**President**  
**American Forest Foundation**